

THE ORPHANAGE

Established by Red Cross Society
in Havana.

THE "ONE TOUCH OF NATURE"

"THAT MAKES" THE WHOLE
WORLD KIN—HOW A GENER-
OUS AMERICAN BROUGHT
SMILES TO THE FACES OF THE
LITTLE ORPHAN CHILDREN BY
THE PRESENT OF A BIG BOX
OF TOYS—WHAT IS WANTED
MOST IS CONDENSED MILK.
THE "INTELLIGENCER" CORRE-
SPONDENT DESCRIBES HER TRIP
TO MATANZAS WITH THE SEN-
ATORIAL COMMISSION.

Special Correspondence.

HAVANA, Cuba, March 15. — Could you step into our new Orphanage this bright morning you would see something to bring tears to your eyes. Forty little waifs, lately rescued from starvation, and not yet out of danger of death from sufferings undergone, are blissfully happy over a few toys—the first they ever owned in their lives. It came about in this way: By Dr. Leaser's orders, each child who is able to sit up is put out on the broad marble veranda which faces the whole eastern side of the house, for on hour's sunning, after its bath and breakfast. I was sitting out with the children—almost bled in the sunlight myself—while holding in my lap a small girl, whose protruding bones could hardly bear the wooden chair—when a stalwart young American sauntered up the path. He proved to be an angel in disguise. Said he: "I came up to say good-bye to Mr. Barton, as he is leaving Havana this evening, and I thought I would take a look at the orphanage." It happened that I was boiling over with indignation at the recent action of the Spanish government in refusing to pass through the customhouse a box of children's toys, which came from the north had sent with the more substantial supplies from the United States; therefore when the young man expressed a desire to do something for the hospital, I told him the story and suggested that he should take the toys in the form of playthings for the patient little children who had to sit or lie all day long on their beds. The idea pleased him and he rushed away in true American fashion saying that he would "hunt the toys up" and get them to the hospital as soon as possible. Sure enough, the very afternoon a big box arrived, which contained more downy soft comfort for the small folk. In the form of dolls and tin cars, etc., than was ever packed in equal space before.

The name of the sender, Mr. Butler Duncan, of No. 1 Fifth Avenue, New York, and I hope this paper may meet his eye, so that he may know how much good his generous gift has accomplished. It was a sight to see those waifs when the toys were distributed. The children, who were wretched, gradually merging into one of delight, slowly followed by an expression of fathomless contentment when they realized that the precious articles were their very own. Even the tiny five-year-old boy with the big blue eyes and pipe-stem legs, who was used as Methuselah's own, actually laughed when a small woolly dog with black eyes came into his possession.

The little lad was found one morning in Los Fossos, lying on a dead woman's breast. Although I have watched him closely during the several days he has been in the hospital, I never before saw him smile or cry or exhibit the slightest symptom of dislike or desire. Hour after hour he sat motionless on his bed, apparently indifferent to sublimity thrills; but with great solemn eyes, he would gaze at his note of everything going on and the inevitable expression of the sphinx on his old, old face. The first human emotion he has been known to evince was over that woolly dog, and last night he slept with it tightly clasped in his arms. This morning, when I stepped into the hospital, I never before saw the usual rows of silent, pathetic figures, with listless hands lying idly before them waiting for—they knew not what. I was greeted with a chorus of "¡Hola! ¡Hola!" (Hello! Hello!) children, eager to show their treasures to a sympathetic friend. My skeleton girl of the day before, who seldom replied to a question, however kindly put, and who spoke voluntarily except to beg a piece of candy, now came forward with her innocent blue eyes, her face smiling on her pillow, with three small dolls, brave in red, blue and yellow, cradled in a row beside her transfixed gaze. Even the swarthy baby brigand—a sort of ruffian, if signs of heredity point for anything who, erstwhile, carried his frequent orders with an air of one used to command, and who displayed to obey any regulations of a sort of military drill, now reduced to a sort of infantine by a season of solitary confinement in a room, and the temporary loss of his own consent in the superior merits of a red tin cart. "One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," Child nature is very much alike, in palace or hovel, from generation to generation, and the richest and the poorest children make their dandelion curls in the sunshine, and the boys noisy playthings, by the way of the asylum, dear friends. Thanks to Mr. Duncan, it is now well supplied in that line, and the everlasting wrestle with the custom house may for the present be averted. Let your generous take some other form. Just condensed milk is the thing in the greatest demand. It costs forty cents a can in Havana, and besides the babies, who are thousands of adults whose stomachs are weakened from long starvation, can digest only a very small quantity of a Cuban lady, whose whole family have been devoted to the care of the poor ever since this time of suffering began, that at least a hundred babies within her knowledge have died this year for want of milk. It is impossible to send too many boxes of it—biscuits, candies, shiploads of it. If there were plenty of condensed milk now in Cuba people to feed it judiciously to the sick, the death rate would be lessened fully eighty per cent.

Last Saturday I accompanied the senatorial commission and the Red Cross faculty to Matanzas, to investigate the condition of affairs in that once flourishing city of perhaps 35,000 inhabitants. First the three mile carriage ride from the city to the "Cerro," to the ferry on the water-side of Havana. Then a hasty dinner at the hotel, and a short walk to the water-side cafe in Havana. Then across the bay in the crowded boat, mixed up with chattering Spaniards and Cubans, soldiers, servants and donkey carts; past the melancholy wreck of the "Albino" ship, to the long rows of new empty sugar warehouses on the Regla side. And then a three hours' railway ride to Matanzas, capital of the adjoining province of the same name. Everything was somewhat uneasy that morning—and with considerable reason. Rumors were rife of insurgents near by, and the accompaniment of a carload of

soldiers fresh from Spain, going to some station in the interior, increased the danger far more than it gave protection. "Accidents" are frequent along this line—obstructions placed on the track, bombs thrown upon the train, shots fired through the cars. My previous journey over the same road—when bound for a sugar plantation forty miles beyond Cardenas—led me to believe the assertion of my Cuban friends that I am a "masocote." The day before, an exploding bomb killed one passenger and injured another. On the day of my return a train on the same line of the road was wrecked, and the day after three passenger cars were pitched down into an arroyo. Every train that passes this way has its strong guard of soldiers in an armed clod, attached to a cattle car, recovered with the iron plates in which are loop-holes for guns, each soldier standing at his gun, ready for instant action. On the day of our journey to Matanzas, burning cane fields on either side told that the insurgents were not inactive nor far away. At one time we counted seven fires in the distance, and the congressional party did not venture to make the trip. There were Senators Money, Gallinger and Smith, Representative Amos G. Cummings, Editor of the Christian Herald—here he was who has acquired a million dollar fortune in the Red Cross society for the Christian Endeavorers of the United States; besides several secretaries, two photographers and the usual contingent of reporters. The Red Cross party included Miss Barton, first woman of her staff, and her humble friend, your correspondent.

Matanzas is one of the oldest and quaintest cities of Cuba, and before the war was one of the wealthiest, but is now most woefully down at the heels. Four centuries ago a populous Indian village, named Yucayo, occupied the same delightful situation—between two hills, with a broad bay in front, as blue as the sky above, and a green hill in the form of an amphitheatre. History tells us how in 1633, Don Manzaneda purchased one hundred and fifty acres of land from King Carlos II, including the then deserted Yucayo, whose original inhabitants had been slain or killed or enslaved by the thirty Spaniards who now entered immediately settled thereon, a colony of Canary Islanders—perhaps accounts for the peculiar yellowish-brown complexion of the inhabitants of to-day. The founding of Matanzas was completed with an expedition unique in Cuban history, and worthy of the builders of Chicago. The expedition arrived on a Saturday afternoon in October. The next morning Bishop Compostilla, assembled them and with mass and ceremony solemnly changed the heathen name of the place to "San Carlos y San Severino." On Monday, the name of the founder of the city, the cathedral was laid, and the site marked out for a castle and fortress—the ruins of which still remain. The colonists were afterwards given a considerable space in the adjacent Yumuri valley for a cattle range, and for many years devoted themselves to the raising of cattle and horses. Hence, in time, the place became known as "Matanzas de San y Severino"—Matanzas, meaning slaughter pen; but the name being too long for everyday use for lazy people, seven-eighths of it was soon omitted. The growing city eventually climbed up the hillside and stepped over the river San Juan and Yumuri, which are supposed to bound the city to the north and south. That portion of the city now lying south of San Juan, known as Pueblo Nuevo, (New Town), is connected by several handsome stone bridges, among them the notable Puente Belen, and contains the railway depots and many handsome villas in the outskirts. It has also one of the handsomest streets in all Cuba, the Caizada (Avenue) de San Esteban, lined with imposing residences, all of which have pillared fronts and porticos, and flower-filled gardens surrounded by iron railings with tall stone pillars topped by the heads of horses. The streets are paved with mosaic of black and white marble, or blue and yellow tiles; and the colors and combinations, styles of architecture and ornamentations that in our country would be pronounced audacious, here come in perfect harmony with the bright sun and blue sky. Matanzas, however, is not a city of Plaza d'Armas, is laid out with the usual walks and shrubbery, benches and gas posts, and has a fine statue of Ferdinand VII. in the center. In this plaza in times past many patriots have met death by order of the government.

From the bay are the barracks of the celebrated mulatto poet and one of the noblest men Cuba ever produced, was shot by soldiers of the line. He was accused of complicity with the slave insurrection of 1844, when the blacks made a desperate effort to gain their freedom. Grouped around the barracks are the residences of the Bishop, the Commandante, and others high in authority also the finest shops and cafes.

The northern portion of Matanzas, that lying beyond the Yumuri river, is called Versalles and reaches half way up the Cumbre hills. From the summit of the Cumbre, or rather from the top of Montserrat chapel, one may get an incomparable view of the Yumuri valley—a stretch of fertile ground with a river running through, enclosed within green hills—once dotted with gardens and orange groves, with stately palms and villas—now all blackened, desolate and empty. To one familiar with old Spain, the prospect is a sad and melancholy one. I have believed that this narrow valley was once a lake, walled across its present seaward opening; and that some convulsion of nature rent the bowl and convulsed the lake into the ocean, leaving the river in its course. On the hills nearest the bay are the barracks of Santa Isabella, now numerous, carry on the military hospital and two or three similar institutions; and directly below them, for a mile and a half along the water's front of Versalles, runs the Paseo or fashionable drive, laid out by the Spaniards, and rows of trees a stone parapet and iron gates at either end. Beyond the Paseo proper an excellent road extends two miles farther out, to the old fort and castle of San Severino, on Puntó Gordo, "Fat Point." Before the city this morning was a fine view of every thing, and evening with handsome equipages filled with the beauty and fashion of Matanzas; but now not

a dozen decent carriages are left in the district, the grandees of other days are poor as church mice, and only a few soldiers and hungry "concentrados" are seen in the Paseo. Breakfast had been ordered for our party at the Louvre, which is perhaps the smallest and cleanest of the eight or nine "leading hotels" with which Matanzas is blessed. It is built around a sunny patio in which palm-trees and banana, flowering vines, and fragrant shrubs flourish in perfection. Directly in front of the main entrance, a beautiful marble basin set in the wall looks like the holy-water fountain in a cathedral, while above it a printed placard warns the populace, in choice Castilian, that only the best of the guests are expected to wash therein. A flight of stone steps leads to parlors and bedrooms on the second floor; the rooms are marble floored, with daises of blue and yellow tiles, and all is as picturesque and Spanish as anything out of Spain. Directly opposite is a small plaza, with tropical trees bordering the walls, a moldy old church in which a lot of rusty bells murder sleep for weary travelers.

Before the many-course midday breakfast was over, word was brought that the governor was waiting to receive us in his palace; and presently we trusted our bones, somewhat timorous, to the rickety carriages and were ushered with ceremony into the presence of his excellency. The governor of Matanzas is certainly a rara avis among Spaniards in Cuba, being an amiable gentleman and a friend of Americans. In his case a beautiful suite of rooms had already been prepared for Miss Barton, and the governor, the somewhat lengthy official pow-wow, the governor himself proposed the toast—"To the Star Spangled Banner." Then the rickety carriages were again brought into use, for a tour of the so-called hospitals. I believed that no more dreadful sights could be found in the air-cured world than the wretchedness witnessed in Havana and Jaruco—but for wretchedness unutterable the poor of Matanzas bear off the palm! Crowds of beggars followed us about the streets, displaying their sores and wounds and emaciated frames. Famine glared at us from a thousand sunken eyes. Skeleton hands were stretched for alms, and supplicants whined for a morsel of food; and stories of starvation, pitiful enough to make the blood run cold, were clamored in our ears.

The hospitals are mere sheds, crowded with rude stretchers—most of them with no flooring but mother earth, and no cover but the sky above. The hospitals might well be written, "All hope abandoned, we who enter here." Words fail in attempting to describe the soul-sickening sights that day witnessed—the emaciated wretches, the swollen legs and bursting feet in the last stages of cholera, the emaciated men and children imploring a morsel of bread; the horrors of individual cases, which nothing but death can relieve; the dreadful smells and cries and groans that everywhere pursued us. Strong men wept like children, and with open tears mingled burning indignation at the state of the colony. It would be permitted to exist near the end of the nineteenth century within a day's journey of the United States.

FANNIE B. WARD.

WE often hear people say there is only one good cough medicine and that is Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup; the specific for cold.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

The Features of the Money and Stock Markets.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Money on call steady at 15/16 per cent; last loan 2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 4 1/2 to 5 1/2 per cent. Sterling exchange weak, with actual business in bankers' bills at \$184 1/2 for demand and at \$184 1/4 for telegraphic transfer. Commercial bills \$184 1/2. Silver certificates 55 1/2 to 56. Bar silver 55 1/2. Mexican dollars 44 1/2.

Government bonds weak.

State bonds quiet.

Railroad bonds weak.

To-day's closing prices were the lowest in most cases since the Cuban question became a dominant factor in the situation. Twenty active shares averaged lower than at any time this year and government new issues coupon were down to 12 1/2.

Wheat opened weak and lower on the Argentine heavy shipments from Argentina.

Chicago—Liquidation of long property continued on the board of trade today, the threatening political situation dominating all other influences. Covering of short contracts near the close caused rallies throughout, but left declines in July wheat of 3/4 to 1/2, and in May corn, 1/4 to 1/2, and in May 1900, 1/4 to 1/2.

Clique brokers accepted all the May wheat offered and held it at \$1.04.

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Everybody knows or ought to know that the nervous system is the fountain which supplies every part of the body with life force. If this system lacks vigor and strength, not only will muscles be weakened, but brain, nerves, heart, kidneys and lungs immediately suffer. The weakest spot will give way first. The weakening of nerves in muscles and joints is the direct cause of rheumatism. This explains why it may go from one part of the body to another so readily. Were it a blood trouble every joint would be affected at the same time. In nearly every instance this trouble has disappeared when the nervous system has been strengthened

and invigorated. Dr. Miles' Restorative Nerve purifier, vitalizes and enriches the blood. It soothes the irritated nerves, and feels the wasted tissues. It gives motive strength to the muscular structure, healthful vitality to the nerve centers, and recuperative capacity to the organic functions of the system. Mr. Howard Wempe, Battle Creek, Mich., says: "I suffered for years with sciatic rheumatism; was laid up months at a time, and frequently was so bad that I could not walk. I spent a great deal of money and treated with many prominent physicians but nothing seemed to cure me. In August, 1895, while confined to the house with a severe attack, I read about Dr. Miles' Restorative

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